

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, YO

SUBJECT: BUSINESS DELEGATION VISIT -- STATUS REPORT

REF: BELGRADE 6373

1. WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH YUGOSLAV EMBASSY, CHAMBER OFFICE IN NEW YORK, AND U.S.-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO VISITING YUGOSLAV BUSINESS DELEGATION, LED BY CHAMBER OF ECONOMY PRESIDENT VAKIC. CHAMBER REP PECI-POPOVIC AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT WALKER REPORTED SEPTEMBER 8 THAT PREPARATIONS FOR VISITS TO U.S. CITIES WERE BEING FINALIZED. PECI-POPOVIC HAS NEARLY COMPLETED NEW YORK SCHEDULING, AND HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE EARLY NEXT WEEK MID-WESTERN SCHEDULE FROM CHAMBER REP IN CHICAGO. TENTATIVE PLANS CALL FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS TO VISIT CHICAGO, HOUSTON, MINNEAPOLIS, AND NEW ORLEANS.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT WALKER IS ENGAGED IN SUPPLEMENTING CHICAGO PROGRAM AND MAKING WEST COAST ARRANGEMENTS. (FYI. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING, IF NECESSARY, COULD BE ARRANGED WITH HELP OF COMMERCE FIELD OFFICES.)

2. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE KREPS HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO RECEIVE VAKIC ON SEPTEMBER 25. COMMERCE WOULD BE PLEASED TO ORGAN-

IZE WORKING SESSION AFTERWARDS, DEPENDING UPON TIMING OF

POSSIBLE VISIT WITH SECRETARY KREPS.

3. DURING SEPTEMBER 7 CALL ON EUR/EE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (GILMORE), YUGOSLAV EMBASSY COUNSELOR MATIC WAS INFORMED OF PLANNING FOR WASHINGTON PORTION OF VISIT. MATIC SUGGESTED THAT VAKIC COULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN EARLY OCTOBER FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AT TREASURY, EXIM AND OPIC. MATIC WAS ADVISED THAT, WITH FINANCE SECRETARY KOSTIC LIKELY TO MEET OFFICIALS FROM THESE AGENCIES ONLY TWO WEEKS BEFORE VAKIC WOULD RETURN, IT COULD PROVE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE SOME OF THESE MEETINGS. MATIC SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES AND DID NOT PRESS FOR APPOINTMENTS.

4. WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW VISIT PLANNING AND OFFER ASSISTANCE AS APPROPRIATE.

5. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASK CHAMBER OFFICIALS WHAT TOPICS VAKIC WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IN WORKING SESSION AT COMMERCE. EMBASSY IS ALSO REQUESTED TO CONFIRM GROUPS TRAVEL PLANS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY PLAN TO ARRIVE NEW YORK JFK ON JAT FLT 500 AT 1600 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 22. CHRISTOPHER

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